

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Central Government has advised the State Government of Orissa to introduce a provision on complete prohibition of transfer of agricultural land from tribal to non-tribal in "The Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (By Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956".

(b) and (c) Government of Orissa has informed that there are only 3617 cases pending on such illegal transfer of land till the end of June, 2000. The details are as follows:

Cases pending as on 1.4.2000	Cases instituted from April to June, 2000	Total cases	Cases disposed of during April to June, 2000	Pending cases as on 30.6.2000
3883	925	4808	1191	3617

Mis-use of EAS funds in Orissa

2598. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the -Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG has reported regarding mis-utilisation of EAS funds in Orissa for the years 1994 to 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that although the monitoring and vigilance Committees have been constituted, these are not functioning properly; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Orissa has informed that State/ District/Block level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been

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constituted and are functioning. These Committee have held number of meetings during 1998-1999. However, during 1999-2000, required number of meetings could not be convened due to occurrence of super cyclone in October, 1999 and conduct of Lok Sabha as well as State Assembly elections during August/September, 1999 and February, 2000.

(c) The State Government of Orissa has informed that the scheme is reviewed on a regular basis at the District and State levels. The Vigilance Committees at the Block/District/State levels have been activated. The dates of holding of Vigilance Committee meetings at the District/Block levels have been specified. A Vigilance Squad in every district under the Chairmanship of the Collector has been constituted. The squad consisting of an Assistant Engineer in the district, an Administrative Officer and an Auditor takes up cases received by the Collector either from the public or as required by the Vigilance and monitoring Committee. The State Government has issued instructions to all Collectors/Project Directors^ District Rural Development Agencies and Block Development Officers to strictly adhere to the guidelines/instructions issued for implementation of the EAS.

Wastelands

† 2599. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise wasteland estimated at the inception of Wasteland Development Board;

(b) whether Government have been successful in developing suitable technologies to improve the fertility of wasteland through the affordable means; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The total extent of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.